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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Six Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students
Honored as Semifinalists in Siemens Competition;
One Advances to Regional Finalist**

Silver Spring, MD—Six students from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program were named as semifinalists in the 2014-15 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology on October 16. This prestigious annual award recognizes remarkable research by high school students nationally in the fields of math, science, and technology. In the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program, this work represents the student's senior research project. This is original research completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university. The work usually begins in the student's junior year and continues throughout the summer. Siemens acknowledges semifinalists with a school banner and a gift package. The competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation.

The Blair Magnet Siemens semifinalists, their research titles, and mentors are as follows:

Qingning Fan of Rockville, "Universal Scaling of Hadronic Interactions in Quantum Chromodynamics at Large N_c with Quarks in the Antisymmetric Representation," Dr. Thomas Cohen, Professor, University of Maryland College Park, Department of Physics

Sangho Myung of Potomac, "Development of Improved Gene Targeting with DNA-dependent Protein Kinase Inhibitor by Homologous Recombination Mediated by the CRISPR/Cas9 System," Dr. Fabio Candotti, Senior Investigator, National Institutes of Health, National Human and Genome Research Institute, Genetics and Molecular Biology Branch

Eric Neyman of Rockville, "Cylindric Young Tableaux and Their Properties," Mr. Darij Grinberg, Graduate Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Mathematics

Arjuna Subramanian of Silver Spring, "Assessing Ionization Mechanisms for Organic Compounds at the Gas-Liquid Interface," Dr. Kaveh Jorabchi, Assistant Professor, Georgetown University, Department of Chemistry

Brenda Wu of Rockville, "Generating Conditional Mutants of the

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H3.3-specific Chaperone DAXX Using the CRISPR/Cas9 System,” Dr. Todd Macfarlan, Head, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Unit on Mammalian Epigenome Reprogramming

Matthew Yu of Rockville, “Induced Magnetization and Band Gap in Graphene-like Surfaces: Towards Spintronics,” Mrs. Xuan Luo and Mr. Gefei Qian, Principal Scientists, National Graphene Research and Development Center

Furthermore, on October 20, Matthew Yu, a Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program junior, was named as a Regional Finalist. As Regional Finalists in the team category, Yu and his partner, Jesse Cai of McLean, VA, were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and a bronze medal, along with the opportunity to compete regionally at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on November 14-15 for a \$6,000 team scholarship, a silver medal, and the right to advance to the national competition, where National Finalists will compete for scholarships of \$10,000 to \$100,000 per team.

Siemens Regional Finalist and Blair Magnet Junior Matthew Yu graciously comments, “It is a great honor that we were named Regional Finalists. I thank the Blair Magnet for inspiring me to not only learn and create and also all my wonderful peers for their continued support.”

Siemens Semifinalist and Blair Magnet Senior Sangho Myung expresses his gratitude, “It is an honor to be recognized as a semifinalist for the Siemens competition after putting in much work to improve new gene targeting methods. I am especially thankful for everything that the Blair Magnet Program has done in encouraging students to pursue research opportunities and present their findings.”

Fellow Siemens Semifinalist and Blair Magnet Senior Arjuna Subramanian agrees, “I am honored to be named a semifinalist in the Siemens Competition, and I extend my thanks to the Blair Magnet and its teachers for impressing upon me the value of the research process and for their support. I owe much of my success to the expansive and receptive intellectual environment fostered by the Blair Magnet.”

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Matthew Yu, Montgomery Blair Magnet junior and 2014-2015 Siemens Competition Regional Finalist.
(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Yanny Liu)



(From left) Sangho Myung and Arjuna Subramanian, Montgomery Blair Magnet seniors and 2014-2015 Siemens Competition semifinalists. (Photos courtesy of Myung and Subramanian)

Blair Magnet science and research teacher Ms. Angelique Bosse, who oversees the senior research projects, comments on the award recipients, “I am thrilled so many of our research students took the initiative to enter the Siemens Competition and that the semifinalists from Blair represent a wide variety of research fields. Combined with

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their hard work and enthusiasm for their research projects, the students' success in the competition was made possible by the support they received from their mentors and co-workers at their research institutions and their academic preparation at Montgomery Blair.”

There are a total of seventeen Siemens Competition semifinalists in Maryland, all but one from the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system, and a total of three Siemens Competition Regional Finalists in the state, all from MCPS. In 2012-2013, Neil Davey, a Blair Magnet junior at the time, was a Siemens Competition Regional finalist and then winner, and continued on to win third place nationally.

About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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